

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A process for producing propylene oxide, which comprises the following steps:

oxidation step: a step of obtaining cumene hydroperoxide by oxidizing cumene;

epoxidation step: a step of obtaining propylene oxide and cumyl alcohol by reacting cumene hydroperoxide obtained in the oxidation step with propylene; and

converting step: a step of converting cumyl alcohol obtained in the epoxidation step into cumene in the presence of a solid catalyst and recycling said cumene to the oxidation step,

wherein a concentration of methylbenzyl alcohol in a liquid containing cumene recycled to the oxidation step, is 1% by weight or less and

wherein the process further comprises a step of removing methylbenzyl alcohol outside the reaction system at least one place in the steps or between which the steps are connected.

2. (previously presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the conversion step comprises the following steps:

dehydration step: a step of obtaining α -methyl styrene by dehydrating cumyl alcohol obtained in the epoxidation step in the presence of a dehydration catalyst; and

hydrogenation step: a step of obtaining cumene by hydrogenating α -methyl styrene in the presence of a solid catalyst to obtain cumene, and recycling the cumene as a new material to the oxidation step.

3. (previously presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the conversion step comprises the following step:

hydrogenolysis step; a step of obtaining cumene by subjecting cumyl alcohol obtained in the epoxidation step to hydrogenolysis in the presence of a hydrogenolysis catalyst, and recycling the cumene to the oxidation step.

4. (canceled).